

**Listing of the Claims**

1. (currently amended) A method of manufacturing an optical waveguide preform, comprising:

forming a preform including a first portion having a glass barrier layer, and forming a second portion on the glass barrier layer, the second portion including a dopant therein, and ~~wherein the first portion exhibits a density greater than the second portion; and~~

stripping nearly all the dopant from at least a section of the second portion during sintering such that a refractive index of the section is greater than the moat.

2. (original) The method of claim 1 wherein the dopant stripped from the section originated from dopant migration in a previous step.

3. (original) The method of claim 1 wherein the dopant in the second portion comprises fluorine.

4. (original) The method of claim 3 wherein the dopant in the second portion comprises an average weight percent of at least 0.3% fluorine substantially throughout the second portion prior to the step of stripping.

5. (original) The method of claim 4 wherein the step of stripping is accomplished by a stripping agent.

6. (original) The method of claim 5 wherein the stripping agent comprises a compound including an element selected from a group consisting of VA and VIA in the periodic table of elements.
7. (original) The method of claim 6 wherein the stripping agent is selected from a group including phosphorous oxychloride, phosphorous trichloride, sulfur oxychloride, antimony, arsenic, chlorides and oxychlorides.
8. (original) The method of claim 7 wherein the step of forming the preform body includes doping the first portion with germanium.
9. (original) The method of claim 8, further including:  
applying heat to the first portion prior to forming the second portion, thereby causing at least a portion of the first portion to have a greater density than the second portion.
10. (original) The method of claim 9 wherein the heat applying step includes heating the first portion with a flame generated utilizing at least one fuel selected from a group including oxygen, methane and oxygen, carbon monoxide and oxygen, deuterium, and hydrogen.
11. (original) The method of claim 9 wherein the heat applying step includes heating the first portion with a CO<sub>2</sub> laser.
12. (original) The method of claim 9 wherein the heat applying step includes heating the first portion with a plasma torch.

13. (original) The method of claim 9 wherein the heat applying step is accomplished within the range of from about 1500°C to about 1700°C.

14. (cancel)

15. (original) The method of claim 9 further including:  
drying the first and second portions with a drying agent.

16. (previously presented) The method of claim 15 wherein the drying step includes selecting the drying agent from a group including chlorine, germanium chloride, germanium tetrachloride, silicon tetrachloride, and combinations thereof.

17. (original) The method of claim 15 further including:  
partially sintering the first and second portions prior to the stripping step.

18. (original) The method of claim 1 wherein the step of stripping is accomplished by a stripping agent that includes an element selected from a group consisting of VA and VIA in the periodic table of elements.

19. (original) The method of claim 1, wherein the step of forming the preform body includes doping the first portion with germanium.

20. (original) The method of claim 1, further including:  
applying heat to the first portion prior to forming the second portion, thereby causing at least a portion of the first portion to have a greater density than the second portion.

21. (currently amended) The method of claim 20, wherein the heat applying step includes forming ~~a glass barrier~~ the glass barrier layer between the first portion and the second portion.

22. (original) The method of claim 21, further including:  
drying the first and second portions with a drying agent.

23. (original) The method of claim 22, further including:  
partially sintering the first and second portions prior to the stripping step.

24. (canceled)

25. (original) The method of claim 1 wherein the step of stripping includes stripping substantially all migrated dopant from an outer section of the second portion.

26. (currently amended) A method of manufacturing an optical fiber preform, comprising:  
forming a preform including a moat having a refractive index less than cladding and radial portion abutting the moat, wherein the moat and the radial portion include a fluorine dopant;  
at least partially sintering the moat; and  
stripping substantially all the fluorine dopant from the radial portion such that a refractive index of the radial portion is greater than that of the moat.

27. (original) The method of claim 26 wherein the step of stripping is accomplished by a stripping agent.

28. (original) The method of claim 27 wherein the stripping agent comprises a compound including an element selected from a group including VA and VIA in the periodic table of elements.

29. (original) The method of claim 28 wherein the stripping agent includes selecting the stripping agent from a group including phosphorous oxychloride, phosphorous trichloride, sulfur oxychloride, antimony, arsenic, chlorides and oxychlorides.

30. (original) The method of claim 29 wherein the preform forming step includes forming the preform to include a core region surrounded by the moat.

31. (original) The method of claim 30, further including:  
applying heat to the core region prior to forming the moat, thereby causing the core region to have at least a portion exhibiting a greater density than the moat.

32. (original) The method of claim 31 wherein the heat applying step includes heating the core region with a flame generated utilizing at least one fuel selected from a group including oxygen, methane and oxygen, carbon monoxide and oxygen, deuterium, and hydrogen.

33. (original) The method of claim 31 wherein the heat applying step includes heating the core region with a CO<sub>2</sub> laser.

34. (original) The method of claim 31 wherein the heat applying step includes heating the core region with a plasma torch.

35. (original) The method of claim 31 wherein the heat applying step includes forming a glass barrier between the core region and the moat.

36. (original) The method of claim 31, further including:  
drying the preform body with a drying agent.

37. (original) The method of claim 36 wherein the drying step includes selecting the drying agent from a group including chlorine, germanium chloride, germanium tetrachloride, silicate tetrachloride, and combinations thereof.

38. (original) The method of claim 31, further including:  
partially sintering the preform prior to the stripping step.

39. (original) The method of claim 26 wherein the step of stripping is accomplished by a stripping agent comprising a compound including an element selected from a group including VA and VIA in the periodic table of elements.

40. (original) The method of claim 26 wherein the preform body forming step includes forming the preform body to include a core region surrounded by the moat.

41. (original) The method of claim 40, further including:  
applying heat to the core region prior to forming the moat, thereby causing the core region to have at least a portion exhibiting a greater density than the moat.

42. (original) The method of claim 41, further including:  
drying the preform body with a drying agent.

43. (original) The method of claim 42, further including:  
partially sintering the preform body prior to the stripping step.

44. (original) The method of claim 26 wherein the dopant in the radial portion is provided as a result of migration of the dopant from the moat.

45. (currently amended) A method of manufacturing an optical waveguide preform, comprising:  
forming a preform including a first portion and a second portion, the second portion including a fluorine dopant therein, and wherein the first portion exhibits a barrier layer having a density greater than the second portion; and  
stripping nearly all the dopant from at least a section of the second portion wherein the step of stripping is accomplished by a stripping agent comprising a compound including an element selected from a group consisting of VA and VIA in the periodic table of elements such that a refractive index of the section is greater than the second portion.